



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

JUNE 1987

ACCESSORY MARKET TRENDS -- FALL '87

BELTS: textured leather (croco, lizard, alligator, snake, ostrich), smooth waxed and distressed leather, jewel colorations in suede and velveteen, elastic, buttery soft calf or lamb, embossed suedes and leather, often with jewel buckles. Shapes-- cummerbunds, wide cinches, classic trouser belts with burnished metal closures, zipper and stud details, soft leather peplums, sashes and hip wraps.

REVIEWED:

HANDBAGS: Texture (croco, alligator, lizard, ostrich, suede), jeweled evening bags, combinations of textures, denim and vinyl for the junior market. Shapes-- Shoulder bags with flaps, soft leather clutches, pouches, satchels, duffles and drawstrings, canteens, lunch boxes and animals.

'87 ACCESSORIES

SKIRTING THE ISSUE

SCARFS: silk, wool challis, silk chiffon, luxe fabrics (cashmere, vicuna, mohair, platinum, gold). Shapes-- oversized squares, oblongs, shawls, stoles. Motifs-- free-form art prints, geometric color blocking, gold leaf outlines, stained glass looks, nature prints (birds, animals, trees, water color florals), prints inspired by the Viennese art movement and Klimt.

"YOUNG" DESIGNERS

JEWELRY: burnished metals, antique, pink and matte gold, silver/gold combos, semi-precious stones, tortoise and horn, brown patina, crystal/pearls, jet beads/crystal. Pieces-- necklaces worn closer to the neck (dog collars, chokers) smaller scale pieces in matching sets, bold cuffs, button or disc shaped earrings, cluster of pins. Motifs-- nature themes (leaves, ivy, tree bark textures, acorns, birds, butterflies), romantics (cameos, hearts, drops, bows, small scale florals), Estate looks, spirals, free-forms, triangles with rounded edges.

DESIGNER FOCUS: ACCESSORIES

HATS: felt, knits, rabbit hair, alpine feather and curly lamb trims, ribbon or cording around the brim, animal prints, velvet with lizard, jewel or bow trims. Shapes-- upswept brims, deeper crowns, small pillboxes, berets, fedoras, Tyrolean looks, pork pies, fez, knitted caps with ear flaps, helmets, knitted cloches.

GLOVES: oversized gauntlets, perforated driving gloves, contrasting cuffs, leather fringe, cut velvets, croco and lizard trims, embroidery, piping and binding, whipstitch details, zippers, snaps, buckles, bows, button, fur and tassel trims.

SKIRTING THE ISSUE

No question about it, skirt length-- or lack of it, is the big issue for Fall. The reaction in the market has been good. Shorter lengths gain popularity with a "new sophistication". Last season's poufs and wired-out crinolines are being replaced by a sleek, body-skimming silhouette with interest in waistlines, draping, and fabrication. Neutrals are most popular in camels, woodtones and creams.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: The pencil predominates as the all time classic with some modern twists. DONNA KARAN leads the way with her straight "sculptured" skirt that drapes from the center and hides deep side pockets in the season's stretch fabric. MICHAEL KORS uses merino satin gabardine for his drape front pencil, stopping just above the knee. CARMELO POMODORO hugs the body with a stretch merino wool mini in copper or sage; while CATHY HARDWICK prefers grey wool flannel for a slim mini.

Suede has come alive in a variety of soft muted tones and luxe combinations. A knee-length pencil skirt in olive suede looks great with a matching jacket, by LINDA ALLARD FOR ELLEN TRACY. CATHY HARDWICK tops a short, blush swing with a taupe boat-neck tunic, both in soft lambsuede; while WILLIWEAR shows a warm brown lambsuede mini. MARY JANE MARASIANO uses a rust pigsuede, in a short 17" or 24" length, paired with an easy three-quarter length raglan.

A LITTLE BIT OF SWING: Although designers are getting back to the body, the flip and flirt of a hem still remains. JOAN VASS USA uses a wool/cotton blend for a 23" skirt with drop yoke and wide flounced hem in solid colors-- best sellers are the neutrals, especially whiskey. A 22" trouser skirt by JENNIFER GEORGE, with pleats at the waist, side pockets and a slim body barely gores at the hem for just the right amount of femininity-- in heathered wool crepe, taupe or black; for a full shorter look there's a 20" dirndl in a wool/nylon stretch, taupe and navy.

A basic necessity of the season is the short swing, most often seen in grey or charcoal. ADRIENNE VITTADINI cuts it to the knee in a lambswool/nylon blend; while BERN CONRAD uses wool/angora/nylon for a 23" flare. CHRISTINE THOMSON stops at 20" in a milano ribbed knit, solid or striped. And JOAN VASS prefers 100% lambswool or combed cotton at 21" (the bright pimento looks good as an accent).

CHECK OUT THE PLAIDS: Bagpipes blared as DANNY NOBLE's pleated, 25" tartan plaid skirt swayed down the runway in a wool/rayon blend of blue, yellow and green. GENE PRESSMAN and LANCE KARESH stop just above knee in a black/white plaid wool skirt for BASCO. Longer becomes interesting in a 3-tiered, mid-calf, lumberjack plaid cotton skirt in shades of green, black and purple by ADRIENNE VITTADINI SPORT.

Evening gets kicky with MARY JANE MARCASIANO's 24" black metallic plaid in a silk/wool blend with drop yoke and box pleats. MICHAEL KORS swings a stretch wool crepe georgette, drop yoke pleated mini over the hips; or for a different shape, a cognac suede bubble skirt. CHRISTINE THOMSON uses 100% wool jersey for a subtle bubble or knife pleated mini, both 21" and with a drop yoke, in black, pecan or azure.

OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY: JENNIFER GEORGE uses real pony fur for a 21" mini, in prancing black/white or brown/white spots. GIORGIO di SANT'ANGELO creates two skirts in one, with his layered, elasticized circle skirt-- worn above the knee, it is 3 colorful tiers of blue, aqua and green but when pulled low it bubbles, comes in, then flounces below the knee in rustling silk taffeta.

SKIRTS -- Continued

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT: An already healthy response to Spring has left the retailer a little less timid about buying more of the "short look". Most designers quote about a 50/50 split-- the safer length being 24", just grazing the knee, and the longer skirt in a 35" to 37" length, almost reaching the ankle. Many also offer the shorter version as seen on the runways, 19" to 21". Prediction for Holiday-- even shorter!

"YOUNG" DESIGNERS

Fall fashion interpreted by the rising generation of American designers, offers innovative variations on prevailing themes. The mood ranges all the way from downtown rebellion to uptown sophistication.

Flip attitude and off-the-street style characterize designs from Michael Leva and Rachel London. London's revealing rompers, matching teddies and bloomers are paired with Dr. Marten's workboots. Slinky spandex dresses shed their detachable sheer sleeves. For his exaggerated cropped jackets and high-waisted skirts, Leva likes surprise fabrications, wider-than-wide wale corduroy and floral upholstery tapestry. Tight and teasing mini skirt looks are signature designs for Ricky Vider.

On the sophisticated side, Patricia Clyne frees the suit from conventional restraint. Her fitted waist-cropped navy jacket tops a short pleated skirt in butterscotch leather. Carmelo Pomodoro's complete collection of knitted sweaters, skirts, and pants typify a season of easy ensemble dressing in monochromatic separates.

Innovative line and seaming, a recurring Fall theme, is exemplified by Isabel Toledo's "packing skirt" (laid flat it resembles a doughnut-- opens to a bell shape when worn). Clever construction of Chopinov and Menyuk's Post Constructivism features inventive button-on dress flounces, hoods and coat panels.

Dresses, mostly short or to-the-knee, show off a variety of treatments: Norbury and Osuna's front-zipped polo dress; Pomodoro's empire Bardot dresses with variations of smocking; Patricia Clyne's empire belted jersey cocoon and "sweet" detailing, tucking, smocking and passementerie embroidery.

Prominent animal patterns show up in Michael Schoeler's playful dresses and separates of faux crocodile patent leather and cheetah stenciled haircalf. Norbury and Osuna carry the animal theme to a witty extreme with "wooly mammoth" coats and stoles, an acrylic play on luxury fur.

Several young designers focus on ultra-feminine late day and eveningwear. Miriam Bendahan designs with a sense of mathematical precision. Luxury silk dresses with sheer insets, lattice cut-outs and interesting mixes of fabric weights, arranged in a Mondrian pattern, create starkly modern effects. Couture flair characterizes Roland Nivelais' cocktail dresses and ensembles in rich fabrications. Angel Estrada's dresses are the essence of Hollywood glamour, alluringly bare, but refined by sheer scarf treatments, soft sashes and sheer sleeves.

DESIGNER FOCUS: ACCESSORIES

MARTHA STURDY

Canadian designer Martha Sturdy's collection of abstract and geometric forms of bracelets, earrings, pins and neckpieces aptly reflect her prior career as a sculptress. She works in plastic materials that resemble malachite as well as 24-carat gold plate or silver on brass. Also, agate stone pins in abstract shapes set in sterling silver or 18-carat gold-- highlighted by tiny diamond chips. (16 West 5th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., CANADA V5y 1H5; 604-872-5205).

CHARLES MARCHANT

Charles Marchant is noted for vintage necklaces of beads and crystals from the 1920's, hand knotted in silk. Best sellers: jet/crystal, silver/crystal, clear crystal, and sterling silver melted over crystal balls. (417 5th Ave, NYC; 685-4006).

VIGNIERI

A striking collection of pins, earrings, neckpieces and bracelets all hand-crafted. Unusual-- abstract flower pin in copper, acrylic or sterling; hand painted lacquer on the inside of acrylic cuffs; a pre-Colombian inspired masque pin in gold leaf with earth toned lacquer, black acrylic posy holder pin with its own flowers, also matching earrings and neckpiece; and Swiss cheese pin in sterling on black acrylic. (c/o Fragments, 107 Greene St., NYC; 226-8878).

ANDRE VAN PIER

This designer is notable for an eclectic mix of accessories ranging from leather gloves, pins and earrings with 24-carat gold embroidery, to fringe edged scarves, woven out of white or yellow gold, or platinum-- price \$1900.00! Fun, too, are his geometric or large drop earrings and bangle bracelets in hand-cut glass on sterling silver; bras and halters in cut glass colored stones; and over the knee zip front leather leggings that buckle at the top and at the ankle. (252 W. 38th St., NYC; 719-4750).

JAMES ARPAD

James Arpad designs jeweled accessories for Geoffrey Beene, Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera and Scaasi, to mention just a few. For Fall, his designs reflect the diverse moods of his clients from the opulent bows and jeweled rings intertwined with jets, to marvelous button and drop earrings, passementerie and jet in hand-faceted cuffs, hair pieces, bracelets and bags. Works of art-- rhinestone animal evening bags (duck, fox, rabbit), well worth the cost at \$600. (54 W. 39th St., NYC; 944-9406).

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